



Atty. D.t. No.: P61950US1

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: Wilhelm STOFFEL et al.

Serial No.: 09/485,473

Group Art Unit: 1644

Filed: February 11, 2000

Examiner: P. NOLAN

For: NEUTRAL SPHINGOMYELINASE

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

The instant paper responds to the Office Action mailed July 26, 2002.

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓✓  
Cancel claims 28-36, without prejudice or disclaimer, and add the following claims:

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37. An isolated eukaryotic neutral sphingomyelinase comprising the sequence according to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2 or a variant of said eukaryotic neutral sphingomyelinase of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2 having eukaryotic neutral sphingomyelinase enzymatic activity, wherein the variant is
- DI
- a naturally occurring allelic variation of SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2,
  - SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2 having one inserted, deleted, or conservatively substituted amino acid,
  - N-terminally truncated or C-terminally truncated SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2,
- or